

Knowledge Organiser: Electricity

Topic Background

Electricity flows through components to complete an electrical circuit. A circuit always needs a power source, such as a battery and can also contain other electrical components, such as bulbs and buzzers. Electricity will only travel around a circuit that is complete, which means it has no gaps, just like in music where the pulse of the music continues throughout a whole piece and does not have gaps. When drawing circuit diagrams, we use simple symbols to represent the different components.

Electricity changed music in the 20th century, from early inventions such as the theremin to present day where we use electricity to power, record and listen to music.



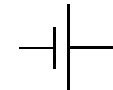
bulb



insulator



buzzer

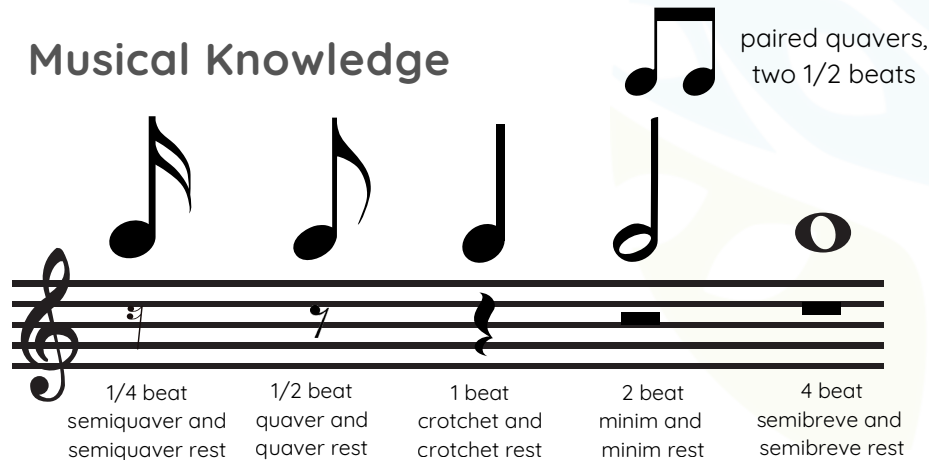


battery



switch

Musical Knowledge



paired quavers, two 1/2 beats

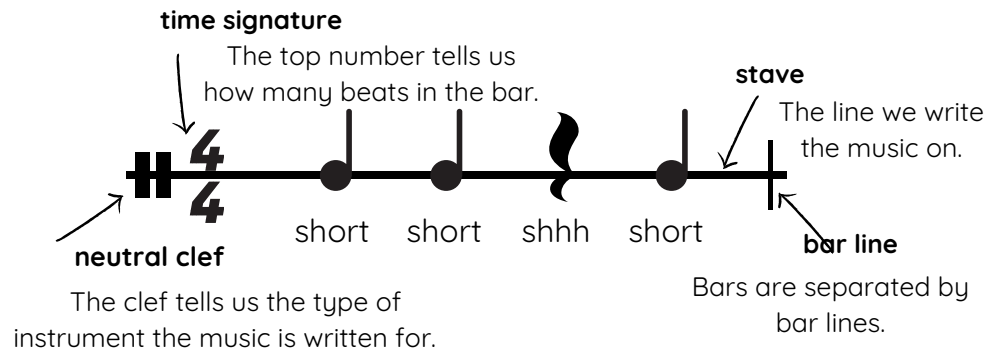
1/4 beat
semiquaver and semiquaver rest

1/2 beat
quaver and quaver rest

1 beat
crotchet and crotchet rest

2 beat
minim and minim rest

4 beat
semibreve and semibreve rest



time signature
The top number tells us how many beats in the bar.

neutral clef
The clef tells us the type of instrument the music is written for.

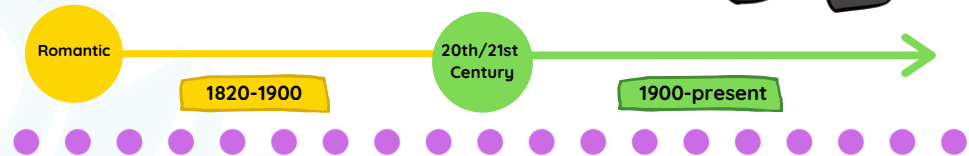
stave
The line we write the music on.

bar line
Bars are separated by bar lines.

short short shhh short

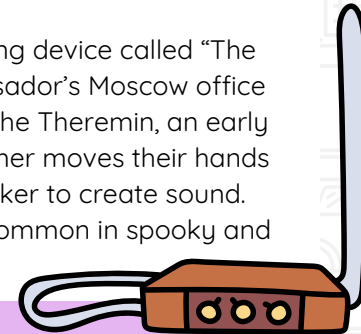
Listening Pieces

- Take Five, Dave Brubeck, 1959
- Midsomer Murders Theme, Jim Parker, 2015
- Jaws Theme, John Williams, 1975
- It's Gonna Rain, Steve Reich, 1965



Theremin

In 1920, inventor Leon Theremin created a Soviet spying device called "The Thing," which hung undetected in the American Ambassador's Moscow office for seven years. This led to his most famous invention, the Theremin, an early electronic instrument played without touch. The performer moves their hands between two antennas, sending signals to a loudspeaker to create sound. Once used for classical melodies, its eerie tone is now common in spooky and science-fiction music.



Key Vocabulary

bridge: contrasting section that builds tension, used as a transition and adds variety

clef: a symbol placed at the start of a stave to indicate the pitch of the notes written on it

duration: how long or short a sound or silence is

minimalist: a genre of music that often has repetitive patterns and rhythms

notation: a way of writing down music so that anyone can play it

ostinato: repetition of a musical pattern or rhythm

polyphonic: layering two or more melodies

rest: a silent note in music

rhythm: patterns of sound consisting of shorter and longer notes

stave: the lines we write music on

structure: how a piece is organised

texture: combining different layers of music to give an overall effect

time signature: tells us how many beats are in each bar and which note value is to be given one beat